

IDAHO NEWS RELEASE

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Idaho Milk Production up 2.3 Percent

Idaho milk production during March 2004 totaled 748 million pounds, an 2.3 percent increase from the same month last year and 9.4 percent more than February 2004, according to the Idaho Agricultural Statistics Service. Revised production for February 2004 totaled 684 million pounds, down 2.3 percent from the preliminary estimate and 5.2 percent above February 2003. Average milk production per cow in March 2004 was 1,810 pounds, 40 pounds less than March 2003 and 150 pounds above February 2004. The average number of milk cows during March was 413,000 head, an increase of 1,000 head from the previous month, and 18,000 head more than March 2003.

Nationally, March milk production in the 20 major States totaled 12.8 billion pounds, down 1.8 percent from production in these same States in March 2003. February revised production, at 11.8 billion pounds, was up 1.4 percent from February 2003. However, adjusting for leap year, February milk production was down 2.1 percent on a per day basis from last year. The February revision represented a decrease of 35 million pounds or 0.3 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,656 pounds for March 2004, 10 pounds below March 2003. The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.71 million head, 96,000 head less than March 2003, and 2,000 head less than February 2004.

For More Information Call: (208) 334-1507.